



Pleasanton Public Library

Children in the Library Policy

Visits to a library are an important part of a child's creative and intellectual growth. Our staff wants your child's visit to be a rewarding and positive experience that encourages a love of reading for pleasure and knowledge for a lifetime.

It is tempting to believe the library is a haven that your child can visit without worrying about safety. However, a library is a public building, open to all. Please use the same precautions for ensuring your child's safety that you would in any other public location.

While our staff is concerned about the well being of our patrons, we cannot be responsible for keeping your child safe from harm. When children are left unattended at the library problems can arise. Young children may become frightened or confused and wander away. Older children cannot be expected to deal with a small child who is frightened, tired or ill. Older children left on their own for extended periods may become bored and disruptive. Since the library is a public building, strangers might approach children. To protect children while using the library and to provide all customers with a facility that is safe, pleasant and conducive to library use, the Library has adopted the following guidelines:

- **Children 10 years of age and younger must be under the supervision of a parent or adult caregiver** who assumes responsibility for him or her during their entire stay in the library. Care providers for children under the age of 11 (eleven) must be at least 16 (sixteen) years of age. Care providers must supervise and provide guidance and control for their charges at all times.
- **Children between the ages of 11 and 15 should not be left unattended in the library for extended periods of time.** Attendance at library programs, browsing for recreational reading, and after school use of the library for homework and study are encouraged and considered appropriate. Librarians will provide minimal supervision, reference and research assistance. However after extended periods of time, or in case of a problem, library staff may determine that a reasonable length of time for the minors to be left unattended has been exceeded. Parents will then be notified and asked to pick up and/or provide supervision for their child. In general, the library considers more than 2-3 hours (depending on the age and conduct of the child) to be excessive and inappropriate.
- **If your child is participating in a supervised program, please remain in the building.** It is important that you are available in case your child needs to leave the program.

- **If a child's behavior is disruptive, they may be asked to leave.** Please help us maintain an environment that allows for everyone's enjoyment.
- **Please do not use the Library as a school pickup zone.** The Library is very limited in ingress/egress routes and parents who attempt to pick up students after school make it difficult for those who actually wish to use the Library to enter the Library's parking lot. Additionally, the congestion makes the Library entrance dangerous to pedestrians.
- **Some form of identification** including his or her telephone number should be available to your child.
- **Children left at closing:** children should call for a ride home no later than 15 minutes before closing. If a child – anyone under the age of 16 - is left at the Library after closing time, or as the result of an emergency closing and contact with a parent/guardian is not possible, the police will be called.
- **Parents and guardians are responsible for their minor's selection of library materials.** The library believes it is the right and responsibility of a parent or guardian to determine what is appropriate material in order to meet personal family standards and guidelines. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children and to select material with their children or review their children's selections.

We hope that these guidelines will help ensure the safety of your child and promote the enjoyment of all patrons using the library.

Adopted by the Pleasanton Public Library Commission on November 18, 2004.